

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 10448

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, BR

SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON LAW
OF THE SEA

SUMMARY: BRAZIL'S LOS POLICY IS FORMULATED THROUGH THE
MECHANISM OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE PRESIDENT. DAY-TO-DAY CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS IS THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE LEAD AGENCY IN
AN INTERMINISTERIAL LOS WORKING GROUP, WHOSE PRINCIPAL LOS
COORDINATOR IS SECRETARY-GENERAL RAMIRO GUERREIRO. BRAZIL'S
LOS DELEGATION AT THE NEGOTIATIONS OPERATES UNDER GENERAL
GUIDANCE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT NORMALLY IS GIVEN A
WIDE AREA OF MANEUVER. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING REPRESENT-
ATIONS BY EMBASSY, USEFUL MEANS FOR SEEKING TO INFLUENCE BRAZIL
ON OUR LOS VIEWS WOULD BE PERSONAL LETTERS FROM THE SECRETARY
AND, IN SPECIAL CASES, THE PRESIDENT; VISITS OF US LOS
SPECIALISTS AT THE SENIOR WORKING LEVEL; AND DISTRIBUTION OF
DETAILED LOS POSITION PAPERS IN PORTUGUESE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE AGREE THAT BRAZIL IS KEY COUNTRY IN LOS OUTCOME
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AND SHOULD DEFINITELY BE AMONG THOSE RECEIVING MAXIMUM
US ATTENTION DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD. FOLLOWING
IS AN UPDATED REVIEW OF HOW AND BY WHOM LOS POLICY
DECISIONS ARE MADE.

2. LOS IS HANDLED AS A NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTION AND

THUS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT. MAJOR POLICY CHANGES OR INITIATIVES THUS MUST BE APPROVED THROUGH THE NSC MECHANISM BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. IN CURRENT PRACTICE, LOS POLICY IS FORMULATED IN INTERMINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE NSC UMBRELLA, BUT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS THE LEAD AGENCY. ACCORDING TO LATEST INFORMATION, THE AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THE WORKING GROUP, IN ADDITION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ARE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL'S STAFF; NAVY; AVIATION; FISHING DEVELOPMENT (SUDEPE), WHICH IS UNDER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FOR MINISTRY ITSELF, AND FOR ITS SUBSIDIARY AGENCIES, PETROBRAS AND MINERAL RESOURCES COMPANY; AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNPQ). WORKING GROUP MEETS IRREGULARLY AND HAS BEEN IDLE IN LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND IT WILL RESUME REGULAR MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY IN PREPARATION FOR MAY SESSION.

3. WITHIN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IS NOMINALLY ACTION ORGANIZATION FOR ALL LOS MATTERS. IN FACT, LOS AFFAIRS COORDINATED DIRECTLY AND CLOSELY BY MINISTRY'S NUMBER TWO OFFICIAL, SECRETARY-GENERAL RAMIRO GUERREIRO. UNDER TERMS OF RECENT REORGANIZATION, PRINCIPAL BRAZILIAN EXPERT AT PREVIOUS LOS MEETINGS, SERGIO THOMPSON-FLORES, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY TO MINISTRY AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LOS AFFAIRS TO GUERREIRO. SECOND RANKING SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
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GUERREIRO IS FLAVIO PERRI. THOMPSON-FLORES WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE ON BRAZILIAN DELEGATION DURING LOS SESSIONS. GUERREIRO HIMSELF WILL FOLLOW PROGRESS OF TALKS FROM BRASILIA, PROBABLY MAKING, AS IN PAST, ONLY ONE VISIT PER SESSION TO THE VENUE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR DURATION OF ABOUT ONE WEEK TO TEN DAYS. SO FAR FOREIGN MINISTER SILVIRA HAS LEFT LOS DETAILS LARGELY TO GUERREIRO, WHILE KEEPING HIMSELF GENERALLY INFORMED.

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